



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday May 14, 2020

Zoom Conference Call 9:30AM – 11:00AM

Meeting Summary

Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present
Barnard	Jerry Fredrickson	X	Hancock	Monica Collins	X	Royalton		
Bethel	Bill Hall		Hartford	Hannah Tyler Matt Osborn	X	Sharon	Deb Jones	X
Bradford	Nancy Jones Phil Page		Hartland	Dave Ormiston	X	Stockbridge	-	
Braintree	Bob Moyer	X	Newbury	Bob Beaulieu		Strafford	Toni Pippi	
Bridgewater	Jeff Sailer		Norwich	Larry Wiggins Herb Durfee	X	Thetford	Guy Scaife	
Brookfield			Pittsfield	George Deblon		Topsham	Jim Bulger	
Chelsea	Kent Gilman	X	Plymouth	-		Tunbridge	Michael Sacca	
Corinth	Joe Blodgett		Pomfret			Vershire	-	
Fairlee	Smith Reed	X	Randolph			West Fairlee	-	
Granville	-		Rochester	Doon Hinderyckx		Woodstock	Neil Leiter	
At-Large Members								
Advance Transit	Van Chesnut			VTrans		Katharine Otto		X
Stagecoach	Jim Moulton Mike Reiderer		X	VTrans D4 VTrans D7		Chris Bump/Mike Blakslee Shauna Clifford		
Vital Communities	Bethany Fleishman			Vermont Local Roads		Todd Eaton		

Guests:

- 1. Introductions** – Kent called meeting to order 9:35am.
- No additions.
- 3. Annual Chair/Vice Chair appointments**
Jerry Fredrickson motioned for unanimous vote for the current slate of Kent Gilman to remain as Chair and Deb Jones as Vice Chair. Unanimous approval.
- 4. TAC Bylaws review**
Rita reviewed new text that's been added to the bylaws:
 - Added section for At-Large Non-Voting Member to note VTrans Planning Coordinator.
 - Changed annual appointment month from March to May.
 - Under Meetings – added language taken from VLCT Model Rules of Procedure for Municipal Bodies for meetings related to electronic participation.



Rita noted we'll take action to adopt the Bylaws at the next TAC meeting in July as these amendments need to be sent out 4 weeks in advance of action. TAC group agreed with the recommended changes.

5. **Approval of November 14 Minutes** – Bob Moyer moved to approve. Jerry Fredrickson 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Approval of March 12 Minutes – Deb Jones moved to approve. Kent Gilman 2nd. Unanimous approval.

6. **VTrans District Leveling Priorities review** - Rita

Rita reviewed the overall priorities provided by VTrans Districts the map with pavement conditions. She asked the TAC members if they had clarifying questions or comments with the ranking which concurred with VTrans. Matt Osborn asked about whether VTrans considers narrowing travel lanes and increasing shoulder widths for all the paving projects. Rita asked if it was specific to the upcoming Class 1 paving in Hartford (it was). She noted when the design engineers solicit input from towns a year before construction, that would be the time to see if they can narrow the travel lane safely considering if there is sufficient pavement width. No other comments. Dave Ormiston motioned for unanimous approval of the proposed priority ranking as presented. Smith Reed 2nd. Unanimous approval.

7. **Covid-19 Roundtable Discussion about:**

- Stagecoach Service Modifications – Mike Reiderer, Stagecoach

Mike reported that Stagecoach has 2 primary focus areas during this pandemic: the safety of staff and passengers and service. Stagecoach continues to ensure buses are properly sanitized, reduced capacity on buses for distancing measures, and installed plastic shower curtains that surround the driver to protect both. Stagecoach continues to maintain bus routes to DHMC, continues providing transportation for patients needing critical care (dialysis/cancer treatments) and delivery of goods to the community. Early on the Stay Home order, Stagecoach suspended fares to reduce physical contact between passengers and driver and instituted a ride reservation system – call the day before for a ride for an essential trip to manage capacity. With the volunteer drivers' program, Stagecoach has stopped ride sharing. Mike noted it was ironic as the public transit model is to increase ridership by expanding capacity/sharing rides to improve efficiency and cost. During pandemic, all the health and safety guidance is the opposite of all those things. With circumstances changing every week and Gov. Scott slowly opening up a little more, Stagecoach continues to review and revise their operations plan to adapt. Rita asked Mike what Stagecoach was looking to pursue from the CARES funding to assist with operations. Mike noted mostly to fund additional trips that cover home delivery trips to those high-risk community members which are not typical eligible trips under the normal funding streams and to cover support staff. Discussion on how statewide we're flattening the curve successfully unlike the surrounding states, that the policies in place



for Staying Home and social distancing measures are working. We'll need to be vigilant and careful as we slowly re-open. Deb asked Mike how one might donate to support Stagecoach at this time, Mike will send Rita information to send out. Mike thanked everyone for their time.

- VTrans Better Roads – Rita reported that this round of grants that was due in December has not been awarded yet due to budget uncertainty. She anticipates after July 1 seeing what the budget situation is, VTrans will likely announce in August (probably a reduced number of awards). For grants that were due June 30, 2020 – they will have a grant extension.
- Grants in Aid projects – Rita sent email out notifying towns last week that DEC has agreed to construction extension from June 30, 2020 to Oct. 15, 2020 which gives towns some breathing room. For FY21, typically this is the time when towns join but the announcement for the program will be delayed until August. This program is also going to transition from DEC to VTrans Better Roads in the next year.
- Road Erosion Inventory – Rita reported that she anticipates that all 30 towns in TRORC will have a completed road erosion inventory by DEC's December 2020 deadline. She's working on finishing 5 towns by July 1 and start on 3-4 remaining for late summer/fall.
- ACCD guidance on road crew operations – Rita reported that for construction, ACCD defers to VTrans guidance – the latest issued was May 4, 2020 where 2 key items include expanding crew numbers to 10 per job site and for contractors coming from out of state, they must self-isolate for 14 days prior to starting on the Vermont jobsite. Rita anticipates the contractor's subs may be affecting more on the larger VTrans projects. Deb Jones noted the paving for Howe Hill, they were lucky that Pike was able to cobble together only their VT based workers to get on the job, and the ground work/excavation was a VT based firm – otherwise it would have delayed construction.

8. **Other business** - none

9. Meeting adjourned 10:40am

Next meeting on Thursday July 9, 2020,

Topic – reviewing latest TPI work plan new tasks